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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (Feb. 25, 1986) - The Eastern Illinois men's swim team will control their own destiny when they travel to Chicago to compete in the Midwest Championships next week.

"We can control what we do in this meet, but we can't control what the other teams do," said Eastern head coach Ray Padovan. "We're going to have to swim some outstanding times to place in this meet, and I think we're capable of doing it."

Last year Eastern finished in the top half of the team scoring. But Padovan says it won't be that easy this year. "We'll be hard-pressed to do as well as last year. We were definitely a stronger team last year," Padovan said.

Eastern's top performer this year has been senior co-captain Steve Dempsey (Peoria) in the short distance events. Dempsey's best time in the 50 yd. freestyle this year was 22.00. Padovan doesn't believe this time is good enough to place in the Midwest Championships. "All of our swimmers are going to have to drop a substantial amount of time," said Padovan.

Last year at the Midwest Championships Dempsey placed in the top six in three events. "For us to be successful, we need our upperclassmen to do well," Padovan said.

Other swimmers expected to do well for the Panthers are Tim Schnittker (Arlington Heights), Scott Conover (St. Charles), and the other senior co-captain Paul Mulcrone (Chicago). Schnittker and Conover both placed in the top six in one event in last season's Midwest Championships. Mulcrone has been a strong swimmer all season.

"I know how my upperclassmen swim when it comes to this time of the season, it's the freshmen I'm not sure about," Padovan said. "But I'm expecting big drops in all my swimmers times."

"In this meet we don't need everyone to place, we just need a few strong performances," Padovan said. "The points are so spread out, you don't need everyone to score. We're really aiming towards personal best times."